

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants	: Shuichi HIRATA et al.	Confirmation No.:	3667
Appln. No.	: 10/596,218	Examiner:	P. D. Kim
Filed	: June 5, 2006	Group Art Unit:	3729
For	: METHOD OF CONTROLLING CONTACT LOAD IN ELECTRONIC COMPONENT MOUNTING APPARATUS		

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111**

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AMENDMENT  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of February 12, 2008, in which a three-month shortened statutory period for response was set to expire on May 12, 2008, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the outstanding rejections, as well as an indication of the allowability of each of the claims now pending.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.  
**Remarks** begin on page 5 of this paper.